

Minutes: Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council (ECICC)

November 14, 2008

Working sessions: 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Council Meeting: 11:00-3:00 p.m.

The Cornhusker Hotel, Lancaster Rooms 1-2-3; Lincoln, Nebraska

Ruth Miller, chair, opened the meeting of the Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council at 11:00 a.m. on November 14, 2008 at the Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, Nebraska. Ruth noted the posting of a copy of the Open Meetings Act. Those in attendance made self introductions.

Members present: Kimberly J. Chase, Heather Gill, Laura Good Buffalo, Louise Hall-Mountain, Kathy Halverson-Rigatuso, Jane Happe, Eleanor Kirkland, Betty Medinger, Ruth Miller, Tammy Mittelstaedt, Mary Phillips, Carrie Rasmussen, Roger Reikofski, Deb Ross, Janet Staehr, John Street, Joni Thomas, Carey Winkler, Linda Zinke

Members absent: A.Kathryn Anderson, Eric Dunning, Sara Johnson, Marjorie Kostelnik, Sali Lindenberger, Susan McWilliams, Michelle Merrill, Nancy Montgomery, Lynn Mruz, Stephanie Rau, Todd Reckling, Joyce Thomas, Derek Weimer.

Also in attendance: *ECICC Staff:* Terry Rohren, facilitator; Susan Dahm, secretary, Martha Gadberry, facilitator-GBC; *Technical Assistants:* PTI-Nebraska—Connie Shockley; Munroe Meyer Institute—Mark Smith; NDE—Carol Fichter, Melody Hobson, Pam Kasl, Joan Luebbers, Carol Puffer; NDHHS—Lynne Brehm, Amy Bunnell, Shirley Pickens-White, Pat Uzedowski; *Presenters:* Jera Hinkle, parent; Jessica Hilderbrand and Becky Foster, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation; Nina Baker, PTI-Nebraska.

The Family Leadership Team, the Gaps and Barriers Committee, the Legislative and Communications Committee, and the Transportation Committee met in working sessions beginning at 8:00 a.m. before the 11:00 a.m. opening of the regular Council meeting.

MEETING AGENDA:

1. Opening and Announcements:

i. Approval of minutes

Motion, Roger Reikofski; seconded, Laura Good Buffalo: To approve the ECICC minutes of August 22, 2008, as submitted and provided to members in the pre-meeting packet. Correction was requested to show that member Laura Good Buffalo was present at the meeting. The motion to approve the minutes as corrected passed by unanimous voice vote. There were no abstentions.

ii. Review of actions since the last meeting

Terry Rohren reported on several actions since the last meeting. These included:

- Forwarding recommendations for new appointments and reappointments of members to the ECICC, which are still pending in the Governor's Office.
- Postponement of nominations for the Steering Committee until after new appointments and reappointments are made.
- Progress toward revising the Child Care Licensing Regulations, but no meeting has been held with Dr. Acierno.
- Progress on drafting the Report to the Governor. A content draft is expected to be available for Council review by the February 2009 meeting.

iii. IDEA-Part C Annual Performance Report (APR)

The Part C APR for 2007-2008 (FFY 2007) is to be submitted to the U.S. Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) by February 2, 2009. The Gaps and Barriers Committee brought a recommendation that the APR be submitted as the state's ICC report.

- Motion, Eleanor Kirkland; seconded, Deb Ross: To allow Ruth Miller, Council chairperson, to sign the *Annual Report Certification of the Interagency Coordinating Council under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*, which will be submitted with the Part C APR. Ruth Miller will review the final draft of the report before it is submitted. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote. There were no abstentions.

2. Reports from Working Sessions**a. Family Leadership Team**

Tammy Mittelstaedt reported on the Family Leadership Team meeting and received comments and questions from meeting participants on their discussion items, which included:

- Concern about parent involvement in Planning Region Teams (PRTs)—The Family Leadership Team will invite parents from local PRTs to participate in the Team's quarterly conference calls to help inform parents about issues, and also to gather input from parents about their concerns. The Team will also explore options for developing a family-talk listserv and how to best to inform parents and support their participation in conferences. The Team also suggested that parent involvement could be emphasized through a focus in the System Support/Change grant.
- A Guide for Families--Connie Shockley from PTI-Nebraska, and Mark Smith from the Monroe-Meyers Institute, both who provide technical assistance to the ECICC and to parents of children with disabilities, are developing a *Family Guide to Early Intervention* that will provide basic information for families of children with disabilities. The guide will be distributed through PTI-Nebraska.
- Support for PBiS—The Family Leadership Team will try to keep families of children with disabilities informed about the concepts and developments of the program.

b. Gaps and Barriers Committee (GBC)

Carey Winkler reported on the Gaps and Barriers Committee (GBC) meeting. Topics reported and discussed included:

- Part C
 - Joan Luebbers and Amy Bunnell provided information on the status of the Part C APR and noted several findings for the 2007-2008 report. The GBC agreed to recommend to the ECICC that Ruth Miller sign the ICC certification (see iii above).
 - The Co-Leads are working with NDE's Part B (children with disabilities ages 3- 21) staff to group the OSEP indicators for Parts B and C (infants and toddlers ages birth-3) and the ILCD inquiries into four Impact Areas to better define their work with schools and the Early Development Network.
 - CAPTA/Babies from the Bench: Joan Luebbers and Amy Bunnell are working with the Babies from the Bench program to provide information within the family court system on the impact of abuse and neglect on a child's development and information about supports available to families, including the Early Development Network.
- Office of Early Childhood (OEC)
 - Agency administration—Melody Hobson and Carol Fichter were named as co-administrators for the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) OEC. In addition to shared duties, Melody will have primary responsibility for the NDE-OEC work and

Carol will have primary responsibility for the NDE- ECTC (Early Childhood Training Center).

- Early Childhood grant programs
 - Grant RFPs for the 3 and 4 year old grant program for schools are scheduled for release.
 - The Board of Trustees for the Birth to Three Endowment will not release a grant RFP this cycle due to changes in Endowment interest revenues. More information is on the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFF) website: <http://www.nebraskachildren.org>.
 - Planning Region Teams will submit their grants through NDE's Grant Management System (GMS). Due dates were clarified and discussed.

c. Transportation Committee

Eleanor Kirkland reported on recent meetings of the group, which is comprised of state agency staff and others from various community organizations. ECICC members and technical assistants working with the group are Laura Good Buffalo, John Street, Deb Ross, Melody Hobson, Lynn Brehm, and Pat Urzedowski. The group has been looking at the alignment of Head Start and school transportation regulations. A smaller group will redesign curriculum for those involved in transporting of young children. They expect to make an abridged version widely available and are developing visuals to describe restraints, as well as covering issues and resources about them. Availability of these materials is projected for summer 2009. The group is also looking at requirements for drivers, including background checks.

d. Head Start Regulations Ad Hoc Group

Eleanor Kirkland is leading an ad hoc group that includes several GBC members to discuss ways to blend the requirements of the Head Start Advisory Council with ECICC functions. This includes ways to use the ECICC Report to the Governor to also fulfill the reporting requirements of the Head Start Advisory Council. Eleanor provided a copy of the sections of Head Start Act pertinent to the Advisory Council, which will be included with the other legislative statutes that apply to ECICC.

e. Legislative and Communications Committee (LCC)

The LCC is following the revision of the Child Care Licensing Regulations, the writing of the Report to the Governor, and new legislation. They are also working with Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFF) staff who are meeting with new state senators to inform them about early childhood issues and information. The LCC also reported that Governor Heineman will chair the education group of the National Governors Association.

3. Family Story

Jera Hinkle, Kearney, Nebraska, provided the family story during the working lunch period of the Council. She told about her family's joys and challenges with her son, Braden, who was born with disabilities requiring a high level of services and care. She described developments in assistive technology and recalled favorite events and friendships that supported them as individuals and as a family and provided photos and memorabilia to paint a picture of Braden's and their family's life.

4. Public Comment:

- a. Terry Rohren announced that Barb Schliesser will retire December 31, 2008 from her position at NDE, and consequently, from ECICC.
- b. Deb Ross requested Council discussion about whether ECICC should write a letter to the Governor and/or state senators related to the Safe Haven Bill to be acted upon during a special session of the Legislature the following week. Council members discussed issues about the

bill's intent, its content and language. There was consensus that there was not adequate time to draft recommendations and send a letter before action would be taken on the bill. There was agreement that more information is needed about services for families in crisis. Betty Medinger and Terry Rohren agreed to look at resources about available services.

5. Medical Home Project

Nina Baker gave a presentation on her work for PTI-Nebraska on the Family to Family Health Information Center, part of which is Medical Home. She described what is meant by Medical Home and how she works with families and professionals to build trust and communication that result in a coordinated effort to provide high quality and cost effective care to help children achieve their potential. Nina described the philosophy behind Medical Home and the resources and initiatives that support it. Nina is working with Together for Kids and Families, Head Start, and Planning Region Teams to provide information about the project. She provided resources describing her work and that of PTI-Nebraska and responded to questions and comments from meeting participants.

6. Positive Behavior and Intervention Supports (PBIS) Update

Eleanor Kirkland briefly reviewed developments in PBIS. The leadership team is meeting on January 13, 2009, to look at ways to coordinate overall efforts rather than focusing on silo activities. Additional updates are available from NDE's Office of Early Childhood and the Early Childhood Training Center. She also referred the group to the CSEFEL (Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations of Early Learning) website for further information:
<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/csefel/index.html>.

7. Nebraska Foster Children Support Efforts

Jessica Hilderbrand, Nebraska Foster Youth Initiative Program Coordinator for NCFF, and Becky Foster provided information about their work with the Initiative Program for the Nebraska Foster Youth Council (FYC). They both grew up in foster care and are working with others who have been in foster care to help improve the system. They distributed a list of current projects and described how they are working build to community support and provide information about needs and issues. They are moving toward the development of seven councils across the state. Jessica welcomes suggestions and comments and can be reached at: jhilderbrand@nebraskachildren.org.

8. Nebraska's Professional Development Leadership Meeting and Safe with You Training.

Carol Fichter provided resource materials for members to pick up and used a PowerPoint presentation to describe the foundation and philosophy for Early Childhood professional development, the desired outcomes, and the strengths and challenges in developing a statewide system. In addition, she briefly outlined programs related to Safe with You trainings and statewide resources, which are described in the ECTC November newsletter, *What's Up*, available online at: <http://ectc.nde.ne.gov/whatsup/whatsup.html>.

9. Child Care Licensing Regulations

Pat Urzedowski, administrator of Children's Services Licensing for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS), provided an overview of the history and development of Nebraska's Child Care Licensing Regulations and the process to revise them. In 2003, a two-year process was started to wholly revise the format and language of the regulations to make them easier to read and understand and also to develop new regulations aimed at programs for school-age children. Persons working on the revisions included Pat Urzedowski and Diane Kvasnicka from NDHHS; Linda Meyers from NDE; Lisa St. Claire from Munroe-Meyers Institute; and ECICC members: Carrie Witte, Kim Madsen, and LeaAnn Johnson. The revisions went to the state regulatory analysis division in 2006/2007, which was followed by a series of reviews and changes. A summary of comments is projected for December 2008 after which further action will be defined. Pat

described the sections of the revised regulations and touched on training that will be recommended and/or required on the revised regulations.

With no other items to be discussed, the Council adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Next meeting: February 13, 2009, 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

MEETING HANDOUTS:

- ✓ ECICC Updates, November 14, 2008
- ✓ Minutes: ECICC Gaps and Barriers Committee, August 22, 2008
- ✓ Minutes: ECICC Legislative and Communications Committee, August 22, 2008
- ✓ Minutes: ECICC Steering Committee, September 23, 2008
- ✓ Status Report: Nebraska Head Start State Collaboration Office, November 2008
- ✓ PowerPoint Presentation: What Families Need to Know About Medical Home (PTI-Nebraska)
- ✓ Publication: PTI-Nebraska brochure
- ✓ Publication: Current Projects (Nebraska Foster Youth Councils)
- ✓ Publication: What Do We Mean by Professional Development in the Early Childhood Field (National Professional Development Center on Inclusion: www.fpg.unc.edu/~npdci)
- ✓ Publication: Project and Services of the Early Childhood Training Center (NDE) brochure
- ✓ Publication: *What's Up*, November 2008 newsletter, NDE-ECTC
- ✓ Publication: *Re-Connecting the World's Children to Nature—Call to Action* (World Forum—Nature Action Collaborative for Children, Nebraska Nature Action Collaborative for Children, National Association of Early Childhood Specialists in State Departments of Education; www.worldforumfoundation.org/nature)
- ✓ Save the Date: Nebraska Early Childhood Coaching/Mentoring Institute, February 24 & 25, 2009 (NDE & NDHHS)